

Evening Public Ledger

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A FOUR-YEAR PROGRAM FOR PHILADELPHIA
Things on which the people expect the new administration to concentrate its attention:
1. The Delaware river bridge.
2. A drydock big enough to accommodate the largest ships.
3. Development of the rapid transit system.
4. A convention hall.
5. A building for the Free Library.
6. An Art Museum.
7. Improvement of the water supply.
8. Homes to accommodate the population.

DO IT NOW
CONTROLLER WALTON denies that he ever said that the city did not have money enough to increase the pay of the police and firemen.

MARKETING HOG ISLAND
LOGICAL sequel to the recent acquisition by the government of the title to the Hog Island ground is the announcement from Washington that tenders for the purchase of the entire plant may now be submitted.

TOWARD A SANE "FOURTH"
AN ANNUAL complaint of dealers in Fourth of July explosives will be less convincing this coming summer than formerly. On motion of W. W. Roper Council has passed a resolution asking the city solicitor to return an opinion as to whether the state laws and municipal ordinances are sufficiently taut to prohibit the sale or use of any fireworks.

THE PRESIDENTIAL OFFICE
The distinction which most Americans spontaneously draw between political and national authority was refreshingly illustrated yesterday when the President went out for his first auto spin since the beginning of his long illness.

THE PRESIDENTIAL OFFICE
The satisfaction of the entire republic over Mr. Wilson's rapid progress along the road to health is something quite apart from criticism of his methods. The President of the Union was seriously ill. He is all but recovered. The relief experienced is patriotic and nonpolitical.

THE PRESIDENTIAL OFFICE
Probably all the storm and tumult of partisanship occasionally give Europe the impression that we are in the habit of repudiating our Presidents. The grandeur and solemnity of the office of Chief Executive of these states is thus woefully misconceived. The man is often subject to attacks both prejudiced and

deserved. But the splendor of his office and the patriotic reverence due it are undimmed. They are symbolically akin to the attributes of the flag.

POLITICIANS GO PUSSY-FOOTING TO GREET THE 1920 ZERO HOUR

When Somebody Finds Issues and Candidates All Will Be Ready for the National Conventions
BOTH big party conventions are so near that you can almost hear the sound of cheering and the blare of bands. High hats are being made to shine. Hotel suites by the hundred have been engaged at Chicago and San Francisco, where each presidential boom will at least be assured of a plush and mahogany garage and a comfortable place in which to die.

Neither party has formulated an issue that can be clearly defined. It has been a generation since the country moved with such uncertainty to the eve of a general election. Are the party leaders looking for issues? They are not. No politician of mature experience would yet be seen in public with an issue of any magnitude, even though it arrived in state with a letter from his pastor. No issue is safe company until its ability to withstand the effects of light and air has been tested on the proving grounds.

General Wood has been testing out the factor of militarism in politics. Governor Lowden is apparently trying to determine the drift of sentiment in relation to old-guard doctrines. Mr. Palmer is frankly in the field to learn whether the country is eager to have a strong-arm in the White House. The elder statesmen are content to watch from afar the progress of these experiments.

The general staffs of both parties have good reasons for their spectacular caution. The face of the political situation changes almost every day. Senator Hiram Johnson, for instance, always felt sure of California and the Roosevelt West. California is forgetting him for Hoover.

Systematic attempts to organize the women voters and align them with one party or another have been without success. In this state Mrs. Barclay Warburton's organization of Republican women and the group that has been endeavoring to mobilize feminine sentiment on the Democratic side have alike come upon obstacles altogether new in the realm of practical politics.

Such a method is difficult to find. Old rules do not apply in the present emergency. Political organizations of the past were created and maintained by the convenient system of patronage in states, counties, municipalities, wards and divisions, and safe majorities of men voters were thus kept in intimate touch with the guiding minds of their party.

Women for the time at least move beyond the reach of that system. And it is rather startling to find that through their clubs they have been organizing political opinion as it has never been organized in the easy-going resorts where men long ago substituted poker and billiards and ward gossip for political discussion.

The veteran leaders of past campaigns will wait until the last minute before they define their issues. They will wait to give further study to the eternal mystery of the feminine mind. They will wait to see what happens in Washington and in Europe, and they will wait to watch public opinion as it reacts and forms under the stimulus of Hoover.

The old guards in both parties are not by any means easy in their minds. Discipline is loose on both sides. The candidates in the reserve lines will not stand put. They crowd forward against orders. Governor Sproul refused to stay in the rear. So did Palmer. A little while ago it appeared that General Pershing was out of the running for good. But those who have been observing the general on his tour of the training camps report some amazing departures from the formal attitudes natural and necessary to an officer of his rank.

THE GOWNSMAN

Poor Old English
THE GOWNSMAN not infrequently receives letters of expostulation and protest as to the awful state into which the English language has fallen of late, expostulations on the degeneracy of our poor newspapers and their untalented staffs, or rather gallop of all things linguistic direct to the dogs.

What can you expect of people who are taken red-handed with 'this kind,' or 'them there,' or 'I ain't got it' on their lips? My son habitually misuses 'will' and 'shall,' writes an anxious mother. 'What shall I do about it?' To which the Gownsmen answers politely: 'Madam, I am sure that I do not know; unhappily, some of these troubles are congenital,' and she seems consoled.

On the other hand, there are still 'young ladies' who 'look sweetly,' and an occasional 'old maid'—obsolete expression for an obsolescent old thing—who, holding over from a fastidious age, has employed her 'limbs,' not her legs, to carry her thus far. The Gownsmen knows of people who would rather break two commandments than one rule of grammar, and there are some who would gladly split the Republican party rather than split an infinitive.

INDEED, one of the Gownsmen's correspondents not long since raised this very question, seeming anxious to know which of the several tortures of the inferno was really appropriate, in the Gownsmen's opinion, to this very offense, and whether incorrect capitalization might not also be held to smack somewhat of the heinous offense of profanity. Upon a careful consideration the Gownsmen 'opined' that while he would prefer the splitting of wood as a daily exercise as more conducive to the health of the muscles, he was still of opinion that a man who splits his infinitives, not so habitually and under extenuating circumstances, may yet be saved. He is not so sure of people who confess themselves to be 'intrigued' with or of or by a thing; or subject, even if such be presidents of Browning societies; and he finds an essential vulgarity about the popular word 'kid,' for example, employed to designate the young of the human mammal, not that of the caprine ruminant, which admonishes him that he is not without linguistic sensibilities.

HOWEVER, the Gownsmen is no purist and could never hope to take his place beside St. Priscian and St. Lindley Murray. In fact, he feels that there are several things for which he would rather suffer martyrdom than for his use or misuse of words—words, those pitiable objects of human folly, caprice and ignorance; words, the things with which we build platforms and demolish them, make leagues and then undo them, climb into heaven on the wings of eloquence and fall into abysses of stupidity and worse. In the beginning, he said in all piety, was the Word, and to the end shall it be and the regions that are with the Word and against it. But your Gownsmen is half way up the pulpit stairs; it was the saints that he is not without linguistic sensibilities.

IN THIS matter of language it is quite worth while to recognize that the English which we speak on both sides of the Atlantic today is veritably the same tongue with which the good woman scolded young King Alfred when his mind went wool-gathering and he let the oat cakes burn. We might have difficulty in conversing with this excellent old sovereign, if Sir Oliver Lodge or Mr. Hyslop should entice his unhappy wraith to communicate with us, for it is a long way back to the Anglo-Saxon, so severely as it is a long way back to the source of any river, and much water flows into the gulf which came into the Mississippi after it left Lake Itasca. If King Alfred was a purist, which there seems some reason to believe that he was, he may have rebuked the good woman and said to the Anglo-Saxon, 'I have never seen a change in language, institutions or anything else human that anybody has not deplored as in bad form and reprehensible. It is by change that we grow; it is by the invention of new words and the fitting of old ones to new ideas that our tongue keeps pace with our growth. Even slang, that good woman who rises to the surface to float for a time and then sink again, contributes to the flood and the buoyancy of the river of speech, helping to carry the brave freight it bears upon it.'

MUCH has been made of dialects and differences in speech referable to geographical position. With due regard for our so-called 'American language' in these days of intercommunication, our differences are more likely to remain those of class, and these are equally persistent with the brogue of the Irish or the Scottish burr. There is a current mistake about the ancient lineage of kings. Kings have been long descending and they are pretty well down to the surface to float for a time and then sink again, contributes to the flood and the buoyancy of the river of speech, helping to carry the brave freight it bears upon it.

Twelve United States Cupid Cozens Minerva soldiers are unable to do a very thing sweethearts, Italians, because the girls are unable to read and are therefore barred entrance to this country by the immigration laws. The literacy test is an excellent method of reducing the quantity of immigration; and it is nothing more; does not pretend to be anything else. It is a simple matter of requiring exceptional treatment in the exceptional cases here developed. Most people will therefore applaud the action of the government in giving the girls sixty days' grace in which to learn enough to pass.

There is unemployment. The Lure of the City sent in the cities; but after army life, says a representative of the veterans of foreign service, men do not want to return to farms. This in reply to the declaration of Congressman Green, of Iowa, that farms in the Middle West were suffering from a labor shortage. Sooner or later we may have to draft armies for farm work—or starve.

Just as Eiam the United States Senator will investigate the George W. P. Hunt, nominated by President Wilson for minister to Siam, has publicly declared his sympathy for the I. W. W. There is surely no expectation of founding Wobly groups in far Siam. Perhaps the Senate is merely taking cognizance that Trouble and the I. W. W. are Siamese twins.

He had a blithe word, a smile and a wave of the hand for everybody. He saluted from the rear platform of his train. In his newer aspect Pershing is startlingly reminiscent of Roosevelt in the jocund mood. And his aides warn all who approach that nobody may ask the general to say a word about politics!

While events remain in a stupendous whirl and flux issues will be left to form themselves and come into being on the convention floors. The spirit of insurgency is high in both camps. It may run a bit too far. Any man who values his life and his reputation will hesitate before saying a good word for the old guards. The old guards deserve the punishment that seems to be waiting for them. They were very wicked and very heartless old guards. Yet one thing may be said in their behalf. If they had not conscience or inspiration or faith they had another quality of value. They had sophistication.

We are only beginning to appreciate the need for sophistication at Washington. If Mr. Wilson, being bold, imaginative, aspiring and humane in his theories, had also been sophisticated in the business of politics he would be nearer the goal of his great ambition than he is now.

A young guard that rises to give battle to an old guard will do well to refrain from a reliance on aspiration and idealism alone. The practical hand is not to be despised. The Penoses and the Lodges may represent inertia in politics. But inertia is a force ordained to perpetuate equilibrium. An engine—in an automobile or in government—will quickly rack itself to bits without a fly-wheel.

WOMEN AND THE ELECTION
NO WOMAN need fear that delay in the ratification of the equal suffrage amendment to the constitution for a month or two will deprive her of the right to vote at the presidential election in November.

Ratification might be delayed until August without preventing the women of Philadelphia from voting. The women may not vote in the May primaries because it is not possible to make the amendment effective in time for them to qualify. But the May primaries are merely nominating conventions. The candidates named then have to run for election in November. The primaries are party affairs participated in by the registered voters of the different parties. The Republicans vote one ticket specially prepared for them and the Democrats vote another.

The real election is in November. The assessors' lists are made up in April and contain the names of all the qualified voters at that time. But the law provides for placing names on the assessors' lists as late as September 1. If the amendment should be ratified before that date every woman of voting age in this city could go to the registration place in her voting precinct, pay her poll tax, or take with her her receipted real estate tax bill, and have her name placed on the rolls. Then she would be entitled to vote at the November election.

This is so in spite of the fact that the state constitution and the state laws provide for voting by men only. The constitutional amendment would supersede all provisions restricting the exercise of the privilege of suffrage to male citizens. But it would not supersede the state laws defining how all electors were to qualify themselves for voting. It would not repeal the poll-tax law, under which no citizen who has not paid his annual tax is allowed to vote. If we had an educational qualification, as some states have, it would not repeal that. But it would place women on an equality with men at the polling place and entitle every woman to the same privileges and immunities enjoyed by the male voters.

It is a little curious that war, that brought about the existence of the largest standard-sized machine in the world, should also have brought home to the industrial world the fact that a man who gets in the habit of doing one thing mechanically is of little use in an emergency. As a result of this paradox, Great Britain is seriously considering the advisability of returning to the old-time apprenticeship system, which made 'all round' mechanics. In this country the same end is being served by the manual training schools, a necessary antidote to the 'Fordization' of many of our mills and factories.

There is unemployment. The Lure of the City sent in the cities; but after army life, says a representative of the veterans of foreign service, men do not want to return to farms. This in reply to the declaration of Congressman Green, of Iowa, that farms in the Middle West were suffering from a labor shortage. Sooner or later we may have to draft armies for farm work—or starve.

"ATTA BOY!!"



HOW DOES IT STRIKE YOU?

Shakespeare as a Duty and as a Pleasure. They Manage These Things Better in France

LIONEL BARRYMORE has been talking about his brother John's appearance in 'Richard III.' 'If the commentators will let them alone,' says Mr. Barrymore, 'they will. I mean the commentators who keep harping on the fact that Shakespeare is highbrow stuff.' It was a misfortune to Shakespeare when the Germans discovered that he was the greatest poet in the world.

They robbed the English stage of its greatest dramatist and the English reading public of its greatest poet. Greatness makes us all uneasy. You cannot look steadily at the sun or at death, says La Rochefoucauld. Nor at greatness. You turn away cheerfully from Homer, Virgil, Dante and Milton to the latest movie or revue.

When the Germans, that cataloguing race, insisted on ranking Shakespeare and declared pontifically that he belonged not only to that company, but at the very front of it, they sealed the doom of Shakespeare. Shakespeare was like the parlor in the old-fashioned house, a place so sacred that no foot entered it.

Can any actor play Shakespeare, this greatest genius in the world? Obviously not. It is presumption for any except the greatest to try. And when one does, all the critics read up and tell him the next day how far short of Booth and Keam and Maeredy and Garrick he has fallen.

Shakespeare is sacred. People cannot go to see him presented as they do to see the latest Broadway success. They go in somewhat the mood they go to church. They go because it is a duty they owe to greatness. It is not that they would not enjoy Shakespeare if they could forget that he was the world's greatest poet and think of him merely as a show.

Home-Lights

The fairest lights on earth are lights of home: So common are they, oft we fail to know The peace, the beauty in their quiet glow Until afar from them our footsteps roam. From homeless one, sad-hearted, wandering, There came the sweetest song of home we sing!

In city highways or lone country lanes I love to watch the home-lights through the storm; Catch glimpses now and then past streaming curtains. Of curly-headed children safe and warm. Of her whose love is heart of home and charm. Of him who lives to guard it with strong arm. Though fortune carries late, do not repine, I through the rain the dear home-lights you see. And say, rejoicing, 'One of them is mine; There peace and love and solace wait for me.'

Our God is good: His own who homelike bids Shall not forever, wistful, stand outside! MAUDE FRAZER JACKSON.

Judge Reppert explains that his professed ignorance of Kitty was but a jest. Pshaw, Judge! We know it all the time! Now that Old Sol seems to be asserting himself, we may busy ourselves looking out for that robin.

High prices make Lenten self-denial fairly easy.

What Do You Know? QUIZ
1. Who is the present French ambassador to the United States?
2. What is the tallest of the grasses?
3. In what opera does the song 'Home, Sweet Home,' occur?
4. Which is the heavier, wet or dry air?
5. What is the color of the tobacco blossom?
6. What was the celebrated Edict of Nantes?
7. What is the term of office of a justice of the United States Supreme Court?
8. Of what state is Charleston the capital?
9. What is a wheel?
10. What American city was once described in Congress as 'The Zenith City of the Unsalted Sea'?

Answers to Yesterday's Quiz

- 1. Constantine was forced to give up the throne of Greece during the war.
2. New Mexico is the southwestern state which has not yet voted on the equal suffrage amendment.
3. Adina R. Chaffee was an American general, especially noted for his services in the battle of El Coney in the Spanish war and in the expedition for the relief of Pekin during the Boxer rebellion in China in 1900.
4. Paresis should be pronounced with the accent on the first syllable and the 's' short.
5. Spruce, pine and hemlock are evergreen trees.
6. The five principal Romance languages are French, Italian, Spanish, Portuguese and Rumanian.
7. Brisbane is the capital of the Australian state of Queensland.
8. The full name of Ovid, the Roman poet, was Publius Ovidius Naso.
9. Mile Mars (Anne Françoise Hippolyte Mars-Boute) was a French comedienne, particularly famed for her impersonations of Moliere characters. Her dates are 1770-1847.
10. Fire losses in the United States reached their maximum in 1908, the year of the San Francisco earthquake and conflagration. The total loss amounted to \$519,511,500.